

Malice Defeated:
OR, AN
ACCOUNT
OF THE
Tryal and Accufation,

Of the Reverend

^{W^m} Mr. RICHARDSON,

Before the Right Reverend the

Lord Bishop of *London* at *Fulham*,

On *Wednesday* the 3d of *September*.

Shewing the unjust Prosecution and Revenge of a furious
malicious PARTY, set on Foot by a Whiggish
Presbyterian GANG; because he had Embrac'd
the CHURCH of *England*: With the Depositions
and Affidavits taken therein.

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FOR AN

ACCOUNT

OF THE

TRADING COMPANIES

OF THE EAST INDIES



1800

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Malice Defeated, &c.



Among all the Diabolical Shifts and Malicious Machinations of the Exploded Party the *Whigs*, nothing has been parallell to this: A Plot to soberly Invented, so premeditatedly laid, and so maliciously carried on, that no less then the *Author of all Lies* himself, cou'd possibly be the Original Parent of it. Here is a Design form'd not only to the utter Ruin and Discredit of an Innocent Gentleman, but likewise levell'd at the *Church* it self; and no doubt but the Persons concern'd must have a mighty Veneration and Respect for any Thing that belongs to it. A short Instance or two of which will hereafter appear in it's proper place.

To proceed therefore, Their Malice was so firmly rooted, that it afforded them a very hopeful prospect of Revenge, which from
his

his having embrac'd the Doctrine of the Church of *England*, they had imbib'd against him ; and the pursuit of it occasion'd a very hasty and violent Prosecution, which cou'd afford them no real Advantage farther then gratifying their Resentment, and therefore makes the whole Intrigue relish the more of *Party*, Spleen, and Malice.

Now to prove it so, let us appeal to all Persons in their Senses. He is accus'd of bringing a Woman Home to his Lodging, and to make it if possible more ridiculous, that he came Hand in Hand with her through the Streets in his Habit, she in a very coarse and ordinary dress, and about Eight or Nine a Clock on a *Saturday* Night, when the Streets must be pretty full. The latter of these Circumstances do's not in the least seem probable, that he should in such a careless, and indeed in such a foolish publick manner, expose himself, even where he was known : A Man could not be wholly void of Sense and Reason, when the very being seen to walk the Streets with such a Person must be shocking ; nay, I question whether instead of occasioning one Person to follow him (as they pretend)

tend) It wou'd not rather have spirited a
 whole Congregation of idle Persons to have
 attended so moving and rare a Sight: Then
 as to the first of the foregoing Circumstances,
 it has scarce so much as an Air of Possibility,
 that he shou'd come to a House Inhabited by
 a private Family, carry a Woman up two pair
 of Stairs, go to Bed, and leave the rest to
 Providence: Wou'd not one rather believe
 that the Thoughts of being met at the Door,
 on the Stairs, or other Accidents liable to so
 hazardous an undertaking, shou'd have deferr'd
 a Man in his Wits from the very attempting
 such a ridiculous Fact? Then there was the
 Difficulty of getting her out in the Morning
 to reflect on still, and other troublesome
 Thoughts: All which put together makes the
 very Foundation of this ridiculous Structure
 seem the greatest absurdity in Nature, and
 the most incredible to be believ'd by any
 Man in his Sences, and as such was in the
 Eyes of all reasonable People that heard it
 Argu'd, the easiest Overthrown.

Another flagrant Instance of this Malice
 was, that when a trifling and spightful Acti-

on: was soon after brought against Mr. Richardson, and he had sent for a Gentleman of undoubted Credit to give him his Word for his Appearance on the *Monday* or *Tuesday* following (this being on the *Saturday*) they made it their Business to go to the Bailiff, and offer'd him three Guineas to take him out of his Chappel on the *Sunday*, of which an Affidavit was offer'd to be made, and if such things as these were Practic'd, it is easy to Judge of the rest.

When the Matter came before his Lordship, there were indeed some Depositions produc'd and read, relating to the Circumstances aforesaid; but such as neither made any thing out against him, or so well agreed in their Assertions; one was the Young Woman, who said, *she was inform'd by the Frenchman, that the Dr. was gone in with a Woman,* and afterwards related it to the whole Family; but 'tis strange this *Frenchman* could not be found. It is remarkable that he was very zealous in following the Dr. from *St. Paul's Church-Yard*, and in raising the Family; and if any thing of Truth had been in the whole, he

he would naturally, one would think, have been as assiduous in pursuing his Design farther: And indeed there was in all the rest something very trifling and disagreeable.

But the more plainly to shew their Malice and Inveteracy, the Reader is referr'd to the following Affidavit, Sworn before the Lord Chief Justice Parker; which may serve to explain the whole Matter, if Truth is to take place, it being made by the Woman herself, about whom all this Bustle was raised.

AFFIDAVIT.

Elinor Kirk, of the Parish of St. Bridget's, alias Brides, London, Spinster, maketh Oath, That on or about the Hour of 9 of the Clock in the Evening, the fifteenth Instant, as she this Deponent was discoursing with a certain Man in Newgate-Street, and they seeing a Clergyman

passing by, whose Name this Deponent since has
 been given to understand is William Richardson;
 she this Deponent was prevailed upon by the Per-
 son she was in discourse with aforesaid, by the
 promise of a certain Reward, to follow the said
 Clergyman whithersoever he went, as if he had
 pickt her up, he assuring to follow them at a
 distance, and so to manage the whole Design as
 should tend to both their Advantages. And this
 Deponent further saith, she accordingly followed
 the said Mr. Richardson till such time as she
 saw him lift up a Latch of a certain outward
 Door in George's Court; and perceiving how
 easily the said Door was opened, she, this De-
 ponent, took her opportunity and slip't up Stairs
 after him; and having followed the said Mr.
 Richardson two pair of Stairs, and finding the
 doors lock'd, she waited on the Stairs in expecta-
 tion of seeing what Use the Gentleman with
 whom she before conversed with, had or would
 make of her thus following the said Mr. Ri-
 chardson into the House aforesaid. And this
 Deponent further saith, That in some little
 time after the House being alarm'd by the afore-
 said Gentleman, and she failing in her Design
 on

on the said Mr. Richardson, and fearing she should be taken into Custody, as a Person having an Intention to Rob the said House, she, this Deponent, did thereupon endeavour to escape, but was prevented. And this Deponent further saith, That the better to carry on this Contrivance against Mr. Richardson, and to make a Penny of him, did affirm the said Mr. Richardson did pick up, with intent to take this Deponent to his Lodgings. And this Deponent further saith, That upon this Affirmation she was taken into Custody, and has divers times since received Money from several Persons, to her unknown; and particularly from the Landlord and Landlady, and others in the said House, to encourage her to persist in what she had affirmed against the said Mr. Richardson, as aforesaid: But this Deponent not intending to blast the Reputation of the said Mr. Richardson, but designing only to make a Penny of him, as aforesaid, maketh Oath, That she, this Deponent, was not desired or encouraged by Mr. Richardson to follow him into the House aforesaid, or go up Stairs, nor was she, this Deponent, in any Chambers with the said Mr. Richardson, save

save when she was brought in by the Mistress, and others of the said House. And lastly, This Deponent maketh Oath, That she, this Deponent, never did, directly nor indirectly, know the Name or Person of the said Mr. Richardson, or had any Talk or Discourse with him whatsoever till after the time of this Deponents being taken, as aforesaid, and further saith not.

Jurac^t 22 die August,

1712. coram me

T. Parker.

Ellinor Kirke.

They pretended to alledge that the Woman was inveighed, and made drunk when this Affidavit was made, but it appear'd otherwise by unquestionable Testimony; besides which Mr. Richardson had a Cloud of People of good Repute that appear'd to his Reputation, and in his behalf; some of which Witnessed, That the Prosecutor Vow'd to be the

Ruin

Ruin of him, if he spent an Hundred Pound, and that he had prevail'd with the Woman to Swear that which should do his Business, or Words to such an effect.

And farther, as to the Woman's being suborn'd and made, the Councillor for Mr. Richardson affirm'd, that as to Money he neither gave nor offer'd her any, unless 5 s. to fetch a Petticoat out of Pawn which they had taken for her Garnish, when she was first brought into Bridewell; she alledging it would be very indecent for her to appear before my Lord Chief Justice in a manner almost Naked, and that this he did upon no other Account whatever; and for her being made Drunk, he offer'd his Oath, That she drank no more than the moiety or half of one Quartern of Brandy all the time; nor was the Affidavit made in the Afternoon, as they had depos'd, but in the Morning, whilst she was fresh and sober, she desiring it might be done to do Justice to the Injur'd Gentleman Mr. Richardson.

How they came afterwards to get her to gain-say this, they themselves know best the Arts they us'd, and for what Reason Mr. Richardson's Wife, and Mother, and others were

so

for oftentimes the Gown with her, (as it appear'd they were, by those that saw them there) to Others Attested, That they had known him several Years, and that he was a very sober, modest Man, and very unlikely to be guilty of such a Crime as his Enemies charg'd him with. And he himself gave his Lordship such an Account of the Matter, as seem'd fully to give him Satisfaction that he had been maliciously Prosecuted; and indeed in such a manner as that, the Reputation of no Man is safe, upon whomever it shall be practic'd; but it is to be hoped that their being discountenanc'd here, and their making a very shameful retreat out of Court, will something assuage their unaccountable Malice for the future.

In the mean time his Lordship thought he cou'd do no less in Justice to Mr. Richardson, than order his Licence to be continu'd, and he to Preach the Lecture Sermon again, which he is to do next Sunday. And we are assur'd that his Adversaries now offer to make it up with him, and to be Reconcil'd on all Sides, lest his Action shou'd come next.

F I N I S.